

Beneficent Work of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul

"The 'you may it, are, all the families you united as the one just alluded to? are all the men as domesticated and industrious? Well I must admit that they are not, but nevertheless ones with the improvidence and extravagance we have to live very successful. For instance, last year one of our brothers was visiting a family where the father drank; the wife who received but a small portion of his wages every week, complained to me that she could not keep her husband in his house. The conference was called. One evening when our brother in his weekly visit, was listening to the troubles of the wife, his husband came in. At once, to our delay, his wife told him to go and what about the leeks? 'You are the one for the leeks?' The man answered not venturing to reply, I reproach his wife explained to our pastor that her husband had promised to transplant a bed of leeks and that he was to go to the garden. And what about the leeks? 'You are the one for the leeks?' Just admire this domestic artifice; spurring him on thus gaining two evenings; she teased him every day until at last he did what she wanted. Shortly afterwards the leeks were planted and the good woman again delighted to see her husband in the garden. He was already drinking less and bringing home better wages. Perhaps when the whole garden is planted and cultivated the husband will have no time for going to the public house. Thus in a good many families, a battle between the leek and the bottle, between the tavern and this bit of ground, is going on."

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"What is the exact value of this expression?" Answer, "The exact value of the word nature." "What is nature?" Answer, "It is the material

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